



Barking up the Right Tree

Identifying trees in winter is quite challenging, but fun. Generally, it's eyes to the sky when identifying, depending on the leaves and fruits or nuts. Seldom do we notice what is right in front of us; the bark. When we don't have the aforementioned items on the tree, the bark and its characteristics can solve the identification mystery. Take a good look and run your fingers along the bark. Is it smooth, scaly, knobby, deeply furrowed, peeling? Below are three trees with distinctive bark. One look and one touch reveals the identity.



Persimmon— This tree's blocky bark pattern looks similar to an alligator's thick, scaly skin. Persimmon trees have deep fissures (crevices) surrounding dark, almost black, rectangular blocks creating a very recognizable bark.



Sycamore— A sycamore's outer layer of thin, plate-like, flaky bark sloughs off leaving greenish-white, gray, and light brown spots at eye level. Stepping away from the tree and looking up, you notice the flaky bark gives way to smooth white branches reaching out to the sky. A moisture - loving tree, early settlers and Native Americans used sycamore trees and their white branches as a way to locate streams and rivers.



Northern Red Oak— Skiing is fun in the winter; and some people believe the flat, shiny ridges running down the length of the red oak look like ski slopes. Shallow furrows run along the sides of the ridges. The ridges, to me, look as if a wild animal took its claws and ran them down the length of the tree splitting the bark. I wonder what you will "see"?

These are just a few examples of identifying the right tree by its bark. After the leaves fall, the nuts and fruits are absent, take a walk, challenge yourself, and get to know your winter trees.

—Becky Matney
Naturalist

Volunteer News

Helping you connect with nature.

7000

What comes to mind when you see that number? Anything?

7000 miles gets you to the North Pole and back from Jefferson City.

7000 pennies equals \$700.

7000 days is equivalent to almost 20 years.

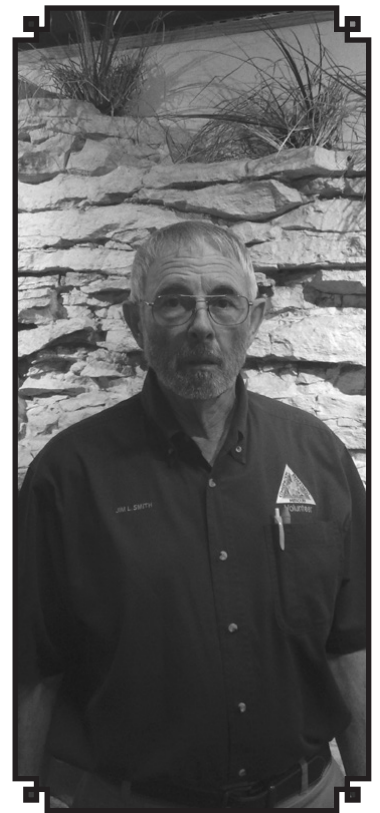
7000 is the population of Sullivan, MO.

7000 hours of volunteer work is equal to 3 ½ years of working fulltime.

Jim Smith, Conservation Staff Volunteer at Runge Conservation Nature Center, has given 7000 hours of his time to us. He started volunteering in 2004 and has been going strong since then. Jim is the first volunteer at Runge to reach this momentous milestone and we CONGRATULATE him and THANK him from the bottom of our hearts.

Jim, along with the 54 other volunteers at Runge, contribute their time, energy, knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to connect you with nature. The programs and events that go on at the nature center and beyond are only possible because of these faithful people.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking all of our volunteers, especially those who have reached milestones this month; Jim Smith – 7000 hours, Anne Hutton - 2500 hours, Nanci Beck - 1500 hours, and Rose Mehmert - 400 hours.



**Runge Conservation Nature Center will be closed on the following days:
Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.**



Lobby Exhibit

En Plein Air Fine Art **Chris Sheppard**

Chris Sheppard is a self-taught artist working in oil and pastels with a focus on the landscape. He believes there is no better teacher than Mother Nature, so he spends as much time as possible in her classroom. He studied en plein air painting and continues to study the modern day masters and the techniques and styles of the masters of the past, such as Edgar Payne, William Wendt, and John Constable to name a few.

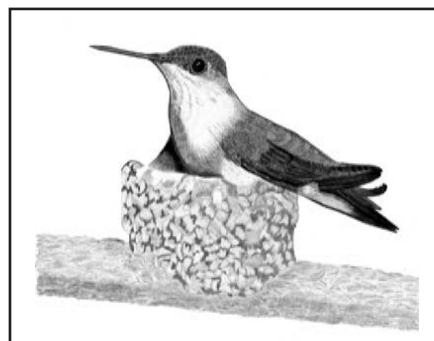
Chris can often be found painting in Missouri or frequenting the western landscape, for which he has a passion. View his exhibit and become inspired.



3D Exhibit

Lured by Angling Ingenuity **by Dean Murphy**

Learn how Missourians combine their love of fishing with invention in a new exhibit about the state's angling industry. Made in the central Missouri region and statewide, examples of baits, lures, and other equipment are a fascinating look at the state's passion for fishing. Dean A. Murphy spent more than 30 years searching out Missouri-made fishing equipment. His collection includes more than 2,000 pieces of tackle, donated to the Department of Conservation. View a sampling of Mr. Murphy's collection at Runge.



West Wing Exhibit

Birds and More **by Diane Brandt**

This pencil and ink drawing is just one of the colorful birds, butterflies, and animals that can be found in this collection of work by Diane Brandt. Diane's inspiration for her drawings come from the nature in her backyard.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, (330 Commerce Drive), Jefferson City, Missouri. 573-526-5544 <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

BUILDING HOURS: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM **Closed Sunday, Monday and all State Holidays.**

TRAIL HOURS: Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

November Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Tuesday, November 1st**, for the November programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Terrific Trees

Branch out this month and take a walk under our big trees. We will look up and down and all around at the trees along our trail.

Little Acorns

November 8 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
November 17 • Thursday • 10–11 AM
Registration required (ages 3–6 years)

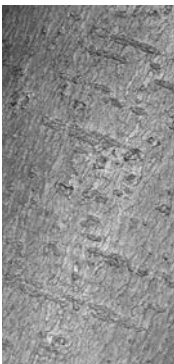
On Winter Break...

The Babes In The Woods program (children ages 0 through 2 years of age) and the Little Acorns PLUS programs (families with toddlers and preschoolers) will take a break until spring. Please watch for the March/April issue of Habitat Happenings for a listing of these programs.

Kids for Conservation

Falling Leaves

November 10 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required. (ages 7–12 years)
Leaves are everywhere this time of year! Find out what kinds of leaves are falling, create leaf prints, reveal the leaves' true colors, have a tree snack, and more. Bring your caregiver or "leave" them at home!



Tree Tidbit

The bark, leaves, and twigs of **Eastern Witch Hazel** and **Ozark Witch Hazel** are the basis of witch hazel extract; used in many facial and body products.

Adults

Color Your Natural World

November 15 • Tuesday • 1:30–2:30 PM
Registration required.
When Missouri trees lose their leaves, identifying them can be a challenge. As we color, find ways to look closely at tree bark to see differences in species. Relax and learn with us. Color sheets and pencils are provided or you may bring your own coloring tools.

Midweek Trekkers

November 16 • Wednesday • 7:30 AM–5:30 PM
Registration required.
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Woodson K. Woods Memorial Conservation Area**, Phelps County, and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 5 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

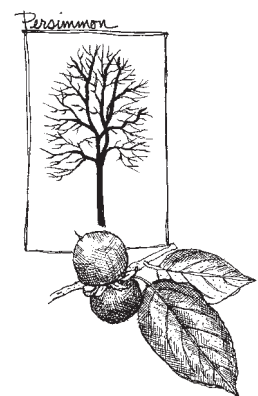
November 17 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM
Registration required.
What are those berries? Learn about several shrubs and trees that provide a food source for birds late in the year. Winter berries also beautify our landscapes. This is the eleventh block in The Seasons of Nature series.

Handcrafted Papermaking-Naturally

November 18 • Friday • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required.
Did you know the wasp was the original papermaker? Join us to learn about making paper from pulp - the modern way! We will blend newspapers, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with pieces of nature - seeds, leaves, petals, snake skin, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring several magazines and a bath-size towel.

The Hikers

November 19 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required.
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Arrow Rock State Park**, northwest of Boonville in Arrow Rock, and hike a trail or two. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 2 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.



November Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.



All Ages

A series of speakers present: Who Howled?

November 3 • Thursday • 6:30–8 PM

No registration required.

Howls in the night, tracks in the mud... could it be a wolf? Missouri has far more coyotes and foxes, but a few wolves have been confirmed in Missouri, generally when mistaken for a coyote during hunting season. Researchers continue to learn more about the large predators of Missouri, and how to avoid conflicts with them. Join us to hear Tom Meister, MDC Wildlife Damage Biologist and Missouri wildlife expert, carnivore biologist Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation, and Ashley Rearden, Director of Education with the world-renowned Endangered Wolf Center share fascinating information on the latest research and findings.

What's Going On?: Nature In The Arts - En Plein Air Painting

November 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

En Plein Air is a French term meaning "in the open air." Join Chris Sheppard, November/December lobby exhibitor, in "the open air" as he paints an oil landscape from start to finish at Runge. Try your hand at sketching and painting using this method of *En Plein Air* and enjoy other nature art opportunities for all ages in our lobby and on the Runge grounds.



Tree Tidbit

The original basic ingredient of aspirin, salicin, was extracted from the bark of **Black Willow** in the early 19th century. Today it is synthesized.

What's Going On?: Turkey Talk

November 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

A turkey is a very funny bird, his head goes wobble, wobble, wobble. But the only thing a turkey says, is gobble, gobble, gobble! Today is all about Missouri's native turkey, the Eastern Wild Turkey. Come join us as we talk and trot like these big birds do. You may even see one in our wildlife viewing area!

What's Going On?: Handcrafted Papermaking- Naturally

November 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Refer to November 18th, on page 4, for description. Plus, there will be activities in the lobby.

Shopping Alternatives: Oh Deer!

November 25 • Friday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required.

Oh Deer! No desire to shop? Leap into Runge and discover one of Missouri's conservation success stories, the white-tailed deer, through crafts, activities, and exploratory tables.

Mixed Age Groups

Deer Processing

November 5 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

Registration required (ages 6 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing.

Adventure Birding and Half-Day Discovery Hike: Birding at Binder Lake

November 12 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11 years and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Join us for this adventure as we explore Binder Lake, our local birding hotspot. This time of year a variety of waterfowl, grebes, eagles, and sometimes very unusual birds show up on this scenic lake. We will also explore the woodland trails for winter birds. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at Runge and carpool to Binder Lake.

Scout Packs

Get outside and explore.

Cub Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Tiger Adventure Pack: Backyard Jungle/Tigers in the Wild

Bear Adventure Pack: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns

Wolf Adventure Pack: Paws on the Path

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Woods/Walkabout

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Wild

December Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Thursday, December 1st**, for the December programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Fireside Nature Stories for the Very Young

It may be cold and dreary outside, but inside is alive with activity found between the pages of books. Our naturalists will pick some favorite stories to share with you adding a little extra fun to each one.

Little Acorns

December 9 • Friday • 10-11 AM

December 14 • Wednesday • 10-11 AM

Registration required. (ages 3-6 years)

On Winter Break...

*The **Babes In The Woods** program (children ages 0 through 2 years of age) and the **Little Acorns PLUS** programs (families with toddlers and preschoolers) will take a break until spring. Please watch for the March/April issue of *Habitat Happenings* for a listing of these programs.*



Tree Tidbit

Oak tree bark has an astringent (causes tissue contraction). Native Americans used inner bark tea to treat diarrhea, mouth sores, chapped skin, asthma, and coughs.

Teens for Conservation

Eagle Adventure

December 30 • Friday • 1-5 PM

Registration required. (ages 13-17 years)

Be prepared to venture into the wild world of the American Bald Eagle. We will go on a hunt (with our binoculars, of course) in search of this amazing bird of prey and learn fun facts as we caravan to different eagle-sighting hotspots around Jefferson City. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Snacks and hot chocolate will be provided. A permission form is required and can be picked up at the nature center or provide an e-mail when registering to have one sent to you.

Adults

Midweek Trekkers

December 7 • Wednesday • 8 AM-5 PM

Registration required.

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center, drive to the **Edgewood Nature Trail, Noren Access, and Downtown Jefferson City** in Cole County and explore these areas. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 6 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

Color Your Natural World

December 7 • Wednesday • 1:30-2:30 PM

Registration required.

Ready or not; here it comes. Winter appears on our calendars and in our woods this month. Share an afternoon hearing about the beauty of winter landscapes as we quietly color. Leaders will provide sheets and pencils or you may bring your own coloring tools.

River Bluffs Audubon Society: Conserving Habitats for Fish and Wildlife

December 8 • Thursday • 6:30-7:30 PM

No registration required.

How should we think about adaptation in fish and wildlife conservation efforts? Please join us for a presentation and discussion about climate-informed conservation efforts across the United States, specifically priority conservation projects funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society through the Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

Dennis Figg, retired Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) employee, whose career focused on promoting the stewardship of fish, forest, and wildlife resources will be our presenter. He led the development of the Missouri Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy (CWS), an approach that was nationally recognized.

Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

December 15 • Thursday •

10:30 AM-Noon **OR** 6-7:30 PM

Registration required.

In December, the outdoors can be transformed with magical snowflakes. Try your hand at creating a snowflake quilt block to complete this year's series, *The Seasons of Nature*.

December Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



The Hikers

December 17 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required.

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area**, southwest of Stover in Benton County. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 2 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. *Notes:* Bring your lunch.

All Ages

What's Going On?: Treats from Trees

December 3 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required.

Trees provide...and we benefit! Explore Missouri's native trees and sample some treats that they provide, whether it be a tasty treat or a creative treat. We will also have naturalist-led tree walks at 11 AM and 1 PM.

Managed Archery Deer Hunt at Runge December 16-19

As a method to control the deer population at the nature center, a managed archery hunt will take place on the grounds of the nature center. The trails will be closed during this period. The facility will be open during its normal hours.



Mixed Age Groups

Homeschool: Winter Tree I.D.

December 9 • Friday • 1–2:30 PM
Registration required. (ages 8 years and older)

Think winter is a bad time to learn about trees? It couldn't be more exciting! We'll learn how to identify trees without leaves by using the three "B's" (buds, bark, and berries!). Come dressed for the weather.



Tree Tidbit

The inner bark of **Slippery Elm** is used in some throat lozenges.

Gift Shop...

20% Featured items

Cooking Wild in Missouri
\$12.00
plus tax*

Holiday Happenings

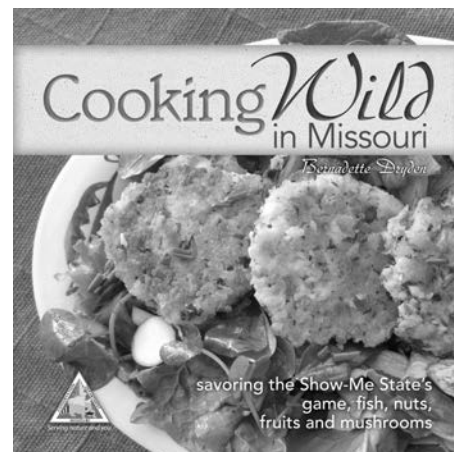
December 27 • Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 28 • Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 29 • Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM

All ages. No registration required.

It's tradition! Visiting with family and friends is an important part of the holidays. Many folks have made it a tradition to visit Runge Nature Center over the holidays to enjoy a variety of programs and activities. We hope you are one of them. If not, start your tradition this year!



*The Heritage Card does not apply.

2016 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

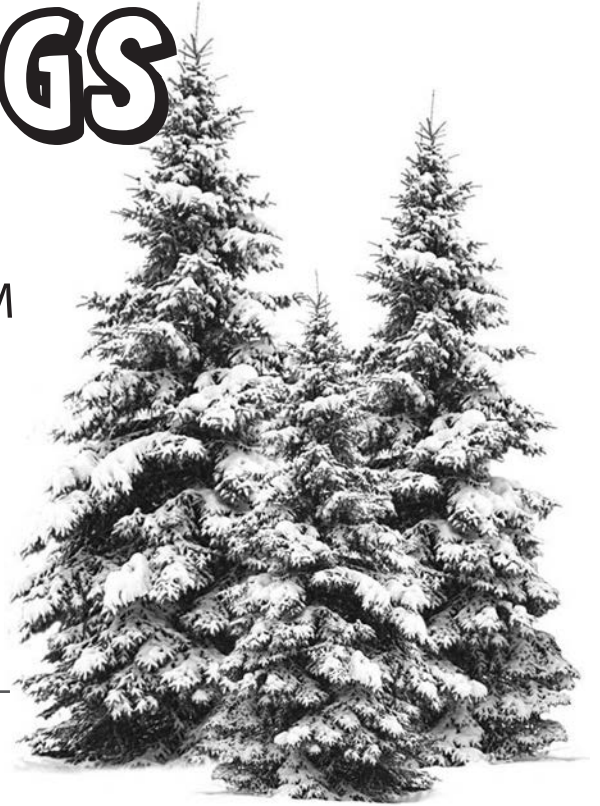
December 27 • Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 28 • Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 29 • Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM

- stories by the fire • nature walks
- crafts • refreshments • and more

For all ages. No registration required.



Eagle Adventure

January 28
10 AM–3 PM

Activities in the Nature Center Lobby.

Live Eagle Presentations at 10 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, and 2 PM.

Eagle Viewing Site at Marion Access with high-powered scopes.

For all ages. No registration required.